

Message

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY REPORT

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Highlights

**Bloomberg
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Highlights

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WEEKEND READ

Australia's Baby Corals Survive First Climate Stress Test

By Deborah Nesbitt

Scientists are encouraged by the survival of hundreds of baby corals on Australia's Great Barrier Reef in a genetic experiment designed to help coral reefs survive sea temperature rise driven by climate change.

IF YOU MISSED IT: THIS WEEK IN NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

Political Headwinds Batter Real-World Rewrite of Flood Insurance

By David Schultz

If it seems like 500-year floods happen far more often than every 500 years, there's a reason for that: The climate has changed. But the way the federal government calculates flood insurance premiums hasn't.

California Becomes First State to Ban Lead Bullets for Hunting

By Emily C. Dooley

Hunters looking for targets on private and public lands in California must now use non-lead bullets when aiming for wildlife.

House Panel May Investigate Park Service Funds for July 4 Event

By Bobby Magill

The head of a House appropriations subcommittee that oversees the Interior Department threatened to investigate the use of National Park Service entrance fee funds to pay for a July 4 celebration on the National Mall.

Alaskan Gold Mine May Get Boost as EPA Intervenes on Permit (1)

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy (Bloomberg) and Stephen Lee (Bloomberg Environment)

The EPA has moved to ensure it has a role negotiating the terms of any permit for the massive Pebble Mine planned near Alaska's Bristol Bay, a move that may bolster the mine's chances of securing approvals.

Challenge to Gnatcatcher's Endangered Status Tossed by Judge

By Mike Leonard

A developer-led coalition lacked standing to challenge the endangered status of the coastal California gnatcatcher, a songbird, a federal judge ruled July 3.

Environmental Groups Sue For Federal Protection of Salamander

By Brian Flood

The Trump administration is dragging its feet on deciding whether a highly-imperiled salamander is entitled to Endangered Species Act protection, conservation groups claim in a new federal lawsuit.

Environmental Groups Sue Forest Service Over Idaho Tree-Thinning

By Martina Barash

The U.S. Forest Service improperly excluded a tree-thinning project in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest from environmental review, three environmental groups allege in a new complaint.

THIS WEEK IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

Insurers Paid \$160 Million for Climate Change Floods in Canada

By James Munson

Insurers paid close to C\$208 million (\$160 million) for damage to homes, buildings and vehicles hit by flooding made worse by climate change in eastern Canada this year, according to insurance companies.

Colorado BLM Drilling Plan Seen as Test of New State Climate Law

By Tripp Baltz

A new federal plan clearing the way for expanded oil and gas drilling in southwestern Colorado has set off a debate between an industry group and environmentalists over whether the plan protects the environment.

EU Ships Emitted More Carbon Dioxide Than Some Countries in 2018

By Stephen Gardner

Container ships, tankers, ferries and other large vessels operating in the seas around the European Union in 2018 generated more carbon dioxide than Belgium and Luxembourg combined, according to new EU data.

Put a Price on Carbon, U.S. Mayors Tell Congress

By Abby Smith

Mayors around the country are getting specific about what kind of national climate policy they want from Congress.

THIS WEEK IN AIR POLLUTION NEWS

Industry May Have to Wait on EPA Air-Permit Exemption Help (1)

By Amena H. Saiyid

Power plants, refineries, and factories may not know which routine repairs qualify for federal air permit exemptions this year because of the sudden departure of the EPA's air chief, an agency official said.

Former EPA Staffers Denounce Move to Exempt Texas From Air Rules

By Paul Stinson

An EPA bid to grant Texas a sought-after exemption to a 2015 startup air emissions rule would set a dangerous precedent for other regions to seek similar exemptions and expose residents to more pollution, a group of former EPA staffers told the agency.

Eastern States Try Again to Curb Air Pollution From Pennsylvania

By Amena H. Saiyid

Eastern states struggling to meet federal ozone limits are trying a new approach to force Pennsylvania to curb power plant pollution.

EPA Sued to Force Livestock Farms to Report Air Pollution

By Tiffany Stecker

Nearly a dozen environmental and community organizations are challenging the EPA for no longer requiring livestock farmers to report air pollution from animal waste to state and local governments.

THIS WEEK IN CHEMICAL NEWS

Rainy Spring May Wash Out Dicamba Pesticide Analysis

By Adam Allington

Record-setting rains that swamped fields and delayed planting across the Midwest this spring may also harm the ability of pesticide regulators to see whether new rules covering the use of dicamba are effective.

No Harm, No Case, EPA Tells Court in Chemical Rule Challenge

By Pat Rizzuto

A lawsuit that environmental, health, and labor groups have brought challenging two EPA chemical rules must be dismissed because no injury has occurred, the agency and a coalition of industry groups told a federal appeals court.

States Sue EPA for Inaction on Collecting Asbestos Data (1)

By Pat Rizzuto

Eleven attorneys general are suing the EPA for rejecting their petition to require companies to report asbestos import and use data.

UN Body to Study Chemical Aniline's Cancer-Causing Potential

By Pat Rizzuto

The cancer-causing potential of a chemical used in agriculture and to make explosives, polyurethane foam, synthetic dyes, varnishes, and stabilizers for the rubber industry will be reviewed by a World Health Organization agency in 2020.

Dow, BASF Stop Fraud Suit Alleging EPA Chemical Report Failures

By Daniel Seiden

Four large chemical manufacturers stopped law firm Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP from suing them under the False Claims Act for failing to meet a toxic substances reporting requirement.

THIS WEEK IN SUPERFUND AND WASTE NEWS

Coal Ash Spills Pose Little Financial Risk, EPA, Firms Say (1)

By Sylvia Carignan

Coal-powered electric utilities and the EPA agree that future coal ash spills don't pose enough financial risk to make new regulations necessary, an industry association said July 3.

Agency Releases Health Data on Two Superfund Contaminants (2)

By Sylvia Carignan and Pat Rizzuto

A federal agency announced new details on the adverse health effects of two chemicals found at hundreds of Superfund sites.

EPA Exemptions for Reclaimed Waste Upheld by D.C. Circuit (1)

By Mike Leonard and Sylvia Carignan

A federal appeals court has upheld an Environmental Protection Agency rule exempting some industrial byproducts from regulations governing "discarded" waste if they're turned over to a "reclaimer" rather than stored or treated.

EPA Contractor Argues for Immunity in Gold King Mine Spill Case

By Peter Hayes

Cleanup contractor Environmental Restoration LLC told a federal court it is immune from Superfund liability for its alleged role in the massive 2015 Gold King Mine spill in Colorado because its work leading up to the event was authorized and directed by the federal government.

Keurig Must Face Suit Over Labeling of 'Recyclable' Coffee Pods

By Julie Steinberg

Keurig Green Mountain Inc. can't duck a proposed class suit alleging it deceptively touts single-serve coffee pods as "recyclable" when they can't be recycled because of their size and composition.

THIS WEEK IN ENERGY NEWS

New Challenge Filed Over Keystone XL Pipeline Approval

By Julie Steinberg

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved significant parts of the construction of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline without evaluating the project's impacts, several environmental groups say in a new suit.

Coal Plant Closure Could Boost Gas, Solar in New Mexico

By Brenna Goth

An investor-owned utility in New Mexico is asking regulators to abandon its coal plant in the northwestern part of the state in favor of natural gas, solar resources, and battery storage.

Oil-State Republicans Want USDA Banished From Biofuel Waivers

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

A dozen Republican senators are insisting that U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue stop intervening in government decisions over granting oil refineries exemptions from biofuel-blending quotas, warning the White House that his involvement is potentially illegal.

THIS WEEK IN WATER NEWS

EPA's Slaughterhouse Pollution Rules Likely to Draw Lawsuit

By David Schultz

A group of environmental organizations is planning on suing the EPA later this year over what they say is the agency's failure to update its water pollution standards for slaughterhouses.

Mexican Waters Eyed as Source to Save California's Salton Sea

By Emily C. Dooley

From sea to shining sea may take on a new meaning in California, as state officials are reviewing billion dollar plans to import water from Mexico's Sea of Cortez to help raise water levels at the Salton Sea.

GOP Members Slash Wisconsin Budget, Still Funds Water Programs

By Stephen Joyce

Wisconsin's Republican-controlled state Legislature gutted parts of a gubernatorial push for drinking water programs in the state's biennial budget, but a senior environmental official said the state's spending trajectory is headed in the right direction.

THIS WEEK'S INSIGHTS

INSIGHT: Supreme Court Sharply Limits Agencies' Authority to Interpret Regulations

The U.S. Supreme Court recently rejected calls by business groups to overturn two rulings that have given federal agencies broad power to interpret their own regulations. Squire Patton Boggs attorney Keith Bradley says while the court upheld the rulings, it also set limits on agency interpretations.

INSIGHT: Scientists Claim EU Uses Unrealistic Chemical Exposure Models for Safety Calls

One of the fundamental laws of physics is conservation of mass; i.e., that matter cannot disappear or be created spontaneously. In exposure sciences, mass balance is the minimum requirement for understanding mass flows of a pollutant from its sources to human receptors. Because the European Chemicals Agency endorses exposure models not aligned with this physical law, the results may sometimes be unrealistic. Exposure scientists Joonas Koivisto, Tareq Hussein, and Michael Jayjock walk us through the details.

INSIGHT: Growing Pains—The Cannabis Industry's Need for Standards

Two Venable attorneys and a partner at the RSS Group examine the need to harmonize cannabis laws and regulations and discuss steps that can be taken toward that goal, including the development of industry standards and a model code.

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